

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Graduate School of Education  
Decision Analysis I  
15:230:522

## Assignment 2:

The current educational climate is at a cornerstone moment in history. A general climate of failure looms in public education in the nation. Nested in the environment is the premise that reform is needed. Currently, there are a host of reforms occurring at the national and state levels.

While New Jersey is no different than other states, reform is aimed at tackling the nations issues through various policy formats such as the No Child Left Behind Act and the Race to the Top Reform. For instance, one might draw general support for NCLB by a closure of the achievement gap that has occurred and the changes that have been productive. Yet, do the data really tell the story? For instance, in many places (e.g., the high school) achievement has not changed and one might make the case that reform has only been rhetoric.

In light of this, data can be used to analyze, evaluate, or debunk a lot of measurable things that are statistically related. You will use data tools associated with finding simple relationships to debunk the arguments stated below.

You may use any national dataset or local dataset to support your critique of one of the following areas

- The neediest schools deserve access to the best and most experienced teachers. Teacher educational attainment and experience (degree, credits) leads to growth in teacher effectiveness and increased student achievement therefore, teachers should go back to school to become a “master teacher”
- Charter schools allow educators to serve children (and raise achievement) without the challenges of working with barriers such as unions, tenure, or ineffective boards of education.
- Funding for professional development leads to better teaching and stronger trends in student achievement.

For this assignment, you will prepare a Data Driven Policy Brief, and you will make use of the data relationships tools found in Chapters 6, 7 and 8 of the textbook to support your analysis.